

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of May 2, 2023 meeting

Information Exchange:

Due to a prior engagement, Thomas Witherspool K4SWL (also VY2SW) joined the club via Zoom at 7:00 PM rather than 8:00 PM so that the information exchange took place before the meeting. Thomas presented on the topic of HF antennas in the field. For anyone who would like to find out more, this is the link to Thomas's website: QRPer.com.

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at around 8:00 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Brent Taylor VY2HF

William Caw VY2CAW

Rick Hews VY2WTF

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Graeme Brown VY2WT

Reg Sharkey VY2REG

Michael McNeill SWL

Charles Easter VY2CE

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

Richard Burke VY2RB

Tracy Allen VY2TAZ

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Gordon Bernard VY2GB

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Dave Cosh VY2DAC

Bill VY2WM said that it was great to see Richard VY2RB at the meeting after Richard had been in the hospital for 4 ½ days over the past weekend.

Bill also informed the club that sadly Ron Huybers VY2HR had gone SK. He and his wife had moved to PEI in 2012, but he'd recently moved back west to be with family.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of April 4, 2023 meeting:

Bill VY2WM advised that since the minutes for last month's meeting had been emailed to all members there was no need for the secretary to read them. Moved by William VY2CAW, seconded by Graeme VY2WT to approve the minutes as circulated. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Nothing noted.

President report:

Bill VY2WM informed the club that some fishermen in western PEI were illegally using the 2M amateur radio band to hold private conversations away from their own marine bands. The Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club together with the Summerside Amateur Radio Club sent a letter to ISED Canada to report the illegal usage of the 2M band. Consequently an officer from New Brunswick came over to PEI to investigate. It appears that someone local is selling radios that he offers to program for people. Nothing further is known at this time. Members from the Summerside club are keeping their eye on the situation.

Bill VY2WM continued his report by telling the club about the meeting Brent VY2HF and himself had in April with Dakota Murray, the Public Safety Officer with the Prince Edward Island Emergency Measures Organisation (PEI EMO). The EMO plans to set up a VHF/UHF station at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Charlottetown, using their own equipment. Alongside that fixed station, there would be portable setups at the site of an ongoing incident such as the recent ferry fire with the purpose of reporting back. This would be for secondary communications only however, as a backup for official channels in case those were ever overloaded. Bill continued that some members of the club may be interested in getting involved in this project by activating the system at the office and another at site.

Bill informed the club that the PEI EMO would donate any excess equipment not needed for the setup of their station to our club. This includes but is not limited to the following items:

- A Kenwood TS-850S with power supply and mic
- A brand new, never been used Elecraft K3
- An antenna tuner
- Several wire antennas
- A brand new Yaesu antenna rotator
- A Bencher telegraph straight key
- An Astron 35 Amp power supply

Currently the club still owns some equipment from the time when we had space at Colonel Grey High School. Bill VY2WM suggested that we might want to sell some of the older equipment and also perhaps some of the EMO stuff we don't need. Hopefully we'll be able to find a new club home at some point where we can set up a station with the new HF rigs from the PEI EMO. Tracey VY2TAZ put forward the idea that the upcoming SMART 23 Symposium this Saturday, May 6, might be a good place to sell some of the old equipment. Bill VY2WM thought that Saturday with only 4 days away was probably too short notice. Tracey agreed that some people might want parts from the old radios. Brent VY2HF mentioned that there would be other opportunities to sell any unwanted equipment such as flea markets scheduled for May and September. Bill suggested that he would make an inventory of what we have and the state the equipment is in. He will give us a detailed report at the next meeting so that we can decide what to do with the individual items. At this point Richard VY2RB mentioned that he too had some items that he would need to donate once he moves into assisted living in the near future. The motion to have Bill VY2WM create an inventory list of club equipment to be reported to the club at the next meeting was moved by Tracey VY2TAZ. It was seconded by William VY2CAW. All members present voted in favor of it.

Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE had to leave before he was able to report on the club's finances for the 4 months to April 30, 2023, and so Julia VY2JA read it on his behalf. The total income for the period was \$2,016.75. This includes the membership dues from five members for 2023. A new member joined the club this very evening and paid the dues, but his membership fee is not

reflected in the total reported above. The expenses for the reporting period increased by \$10. The \$10 received from David Gallois VY2HI for dual club membership has been returned to the Summerside club.

Moved by Rick VY2WTF, seconded by William VY2CAW that the financial report be approved. All in favour, motion carried.

Committee reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that yesterday evening, Monday, May 1, was the last session of the Spring 2023 Basic course before the exam. The first exam date would be Monday, May 8, the second one Saturday, May 13. The location on both days will be the Red Cross at 29 Paramount Drive in Charlottetown. If anyone wants to retake their basic exam or write the advanced one, then please let Brent know so that he can print off the right number of exam papers.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that he'd been able to check on the Fusion repeater. Although there was a lot of ice during the winter, the repeater has not sustained any damage and works great. Ron will be changing the frequency of the Fusion repeater to prevent future interference. There is another repeater down east that Ron is going to be checking on, as well as a couple of other sites.

Summer Field Day:

Ricardo VY2AN reported that the site for Field Day this year would be Victoria Park next to Kiwanis Dairy Bar. It's a great location that is easy to get to. In order for us to proceed, the City of Charlottetown requires us to add them as Named Insured to our insurance policy. This carries a cost of \$75. Bill VY2WM asked if this was a one time charge. Ricardo confirmed that it was. Once added as a Named Insured, we would never have to pay again to set up in any of the parks in Charlottetown. Ron VE1AIC commented that there were a lot of parks in the city. Ricardo VY2AN put forward the motion to add the City of Charlottetown to our RAC insurance policy. VY2TAZ seconded the motion.

At this point William VY2CAW asked if we really needed to add the City as soon as we had insurance with the RAC. Perhaps this sort of thing was included already. Bill VY2WM replied that the City required to be added specifically as a Named Insured.

Ricardo informed the club that we would use four radios supplied by Brent VY2HF, Rick VY2WTF, Ricardo VY2AN, and Bill VY2WM. The plan is to hold a practice mini-field day before the actual event. At the next meeting in June we will work out the logistics. To Ron VE1AIC's question on whether we're allowed to operate throughout the night at Victoria Park, Ricardo replied that we would only operate during the day. As the radios will be battery operated everything will be easy to set up and put away.

All voted in favour of adding the City of Charlottetown as Named Insured.

Correspondence:

All relevant correspondence was shared with members as it was received.

New/Ongoing Business:

CARC Club Station - Location and Equipment:

Bill VY2WM explained that the location that we had hoped to put a club station into had fallen through. The fire hall by the CAT dealership on Sherwood Road was now on hold. Dave VY2DAC mentioned that the tower that had been there had disappeared. Bottom line: We're back to the drawing board without any idea of where to set up a club station.

The suggestion of UPEI was made. Bill VY2WM asked that if anyone had any connections or had space on their own property where we might be able to set up, to please let us know. Rick VY2WTF replied that he had some space and was planning on setting up a ham shack in a barn situated on a 10 acre field. Rick would kindly offer the club use of that space to set up a club station. Bill thanked him for that offer.

Bill VY2KW adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President